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Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 NEA-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 HA-05 ACDA-12 MCE-00
/112 W
----------001415 160358Z /72
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1389
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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EO 11652: NA
TAGS: PDEV PBOR MILI ET SO CU
SUBH: CUBANS DESCRIBE ETHIOPIAN VICTORY

REF: HAVANA 666

IN ADDITION TO REFTEL DETAILS, AUTHORITATIVE GRANMA, MARCH 14, DESCRIPTION OF ETHIOPIAN WAR PROVIDES FOLLOWING CHRONOLOGY OF MILITARY EVENTS.

2. JULY 1977 - SOMALIA INVADES ETHIOPIA, OCCUPYING GREAT PARTY OF OGADEN WITH 250 TANKS, HUNDREDS OF ARTILLERY PIECES, 12 BRIGADES OF MECHANIZED INFANTRY, AND MORE THAN THIRTY FIGHTER AND BOMBER AIRCRAFT. "MAJORITY" OF THIS EQUIPMENT USED WITH "FULL KNOWLEDGE AND APPROVAL OF WESTERN POWERS AND US WHICH MAINTAINED COMPLETE AND SHAMEFUL SILENCE."

3. NOVEMBER 22-23, 1977 - SOMALIS ATTACK FROM NORTH AND SOUTH OF HARAR (FROM DIRECTIONS OF KEMBOLCHA AND FEDIS) SEEKING TO CUT OFF ETHIOPIAN FORCES IN SALIENT EXTENDING FROM HARAR
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TO GOREY. ETHIOPIANS HOLD OFF ATTACK, ASSISTED ONLY BY "SOME ARTILLERY SPECIALISTS FROM A REVOLUTIONARY COUNTRY OF THE REGION." (COMMENT: PRESUMABLY A REFERENCE TO PDRY).

4. DECEMBER-JANUARY, 1977 - SOMALIS, HOPING FOR DECISIVE BLOW REINFORCE FORCES AROUND HARAR WITH EQUIPMENT SUPPLIED

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BY IRAN, SUADI ARABIA AND "OTHER REACTONARY COUNTRIES"
OF AREA. IN MEANTIME, "IN EVIDENT COORDINATON", ERITREAN
SECESSIONISTS INTENSIFY THEIR MILITARY ACTION ON ALL FRONTS.
(COMMENT: THIS IS FIRST TIME WE HAVE NOTED CUBAN CLAIM THAT
SOMALIS AND ERITREANS WERE COORDINATING THEIR MILITARY
ACTIONS. THIS CLAIM COULD PROVIDE CONVENIENT JUSTIFICATION
FOR CUBAN MILITARY ACTION AGAINST ERITREANS, IF POLITICAL
SOLUTION WHICH CUBANS PREFER - SOME AUTONOMY WITHIN ETHIOPIA
UNDER LEADERSHIP OF MARXIST ERITREAN MOVEMENT - CANNOT BE
BROUGHT OFF.)

5. DECEMBER-JANUARY, 1977- CUBA, WHICH INITIALLY HAD SENT
"HUNDREDS" OF DOCTORS AND MEDICAL PERSONNEL AND "A FEW DOZEN
ADVISORS AND MILITARY INSTRUCTORS," ON APPEAL FROM ETHIOPIAN
GOVERNMENT, DISPATCHED "INTERNATIONALIST COMBATANTS" TO
ETHIOPIA, WHOSE FIRST CONTINGENTS ARRIVED IN DECEMBER AND
JANUARY.

6. JANUARY 22-27, 1978 - SOMALIS ATTACK HARAR FROM NORTH
AND SOUTH AND ETHIOPIANS, " SUPPORTED BY FIRST CUBAN INTER-
NATIONALIST COMBATANTS ARRIVING AT FRONT", STOP SOMALIS
500 METERS FROM HARAR-DIRE DAWA HIGHWAY AND COUNTERATTACK
SEIZING FEDIS AND OTHER LOCALITIES. THIS IS TURNING POINT
OF WAR. SOMALI LOSSES -3000 CASUALTIES, 15 TANKS,
"NUMEROUS" APC, ARTILLERY AND ANTI-AIRCRAFT PIECES, THOUSANDS
OF INFANTRY ARMS, AND MUNITION STORES.
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7. FEBRUARY 2-4, 1978 - ETHIOPIANS, ADVANCING FROM DIRE
DAWA FLANK SOMALIS AT HAREWA AND GILDESA. SOMALI LOSSES -
MORE THAN 1000 CASUALTIES, 42 TANKS, HIGH NUMBER OF APC,
MORE THAN 50 ARTILLERY PIECES, AND MUNITION STORES. IMPORTANT
PORTION OF ARMS SEIZED AT HARAR AND DIRE DAWA ARE OF US AND
NATO ORIGIN.

8. FEBRUARY 8-9, 1978 - ETHIOPIANS RECOVER AREA TO NORTH-
EAST OF HARAR (ANONOMITE, BELEWA, FELANA, TERRACES) DESTROYING
SOMALI TANKS AND CAPTURING NUMEROUS HEAVY ARTILLERY PIECES.

9. FEBRUARY 28, 1978 - ETHIOPIANS PENETRATE THROUGH MOUTAINS
BYPASSING MARDA AND SHEBELE PASSES WHICH SOMALIS HAD
FORTIFIED.

10. MARCH 1, 1978 - SOMALIS VIOLENTLY COUNTERATTACK FROM
JIJIGA AND ARE TURNED BACK WITH GREAT NUMBER OF CASUALTIES
AND LOSS OF 16 TANKS.

11. MARCH 2-5, 1978 - AFTER VARIOUS ATTACKS AND COUNTER-
ATTACKS, ETHIOPIANS TAKE JIJIGA AND MARDA PASS. SOMALIS

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FLEE TO AVOID ENCIRCLEMENT AND ANNIHILATION.

12. MARCH 8, 1978 - ETHIOPIANS, RAPIDLY ADVANCING , TAKE DAGAHABUR AND FIK. SOMALIS "DESPERATELY IN ABSOLUTE DEFEAT" FLEE ACROSS SOMALI BORDER.

13. MARCH 11, 1978 - ETHIOPIANS TAKE KEBRI DEHAR, DANAN, AND FILTU. AT PRESENT TIME, VIRTUALLY ONE HUNDRED PERCENT OF OGADEN IS LIBERATED. SOMALIS HAVE ABANDONED "ABUNDANT QUANTITIES" OF TANKS, ARTILLERY, ARMORED CARS, INFANTRY ARMS, AND MUNITION STORES. LANE

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